WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Main page
Contents
Current events
Random article
About Wikipedia
Contact us
Donate

Contribute
Help
Learn to edit
Community portal
Recent changes
Upload file

Tools
What links here
Related changes
Special pages
Permanent link
Page information
Cite this page
Wikidata item

Print/export
Download as PDF
Printable version

In other projects
Wikimedia Commons

Languages
العربية
Deutsch
Español
Français
한국어
Italiano
日本語
Português
Русский
34 more
Edit links

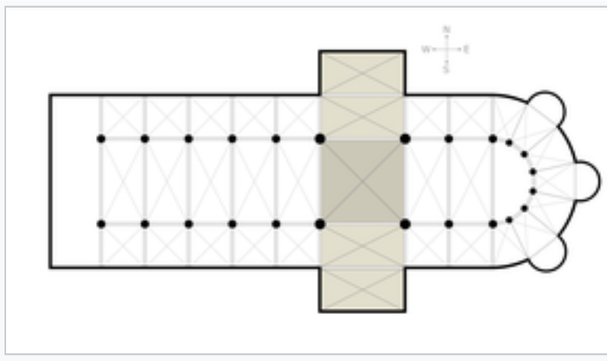
Transept

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For the periodical, see The Transept.

This article **needs additional citations for verification**. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.
Find sources: "Transept" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR *(December 2009) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)*

A **transept** (with two **semitransepts**) is a transverse part of any building, which lies across the main body of the edifice.[1] In churches, a transept is an area set crosswise to the nave in a cruciform ("cross-shaped") building within the Romanesque and Gothic Christian church architectural traditions. Each half of a transept is known as a semitransept.[1]



Cathedral ground plan. The shaded area is the transept; darker shading represents the crossing.

Contents [hide]
1 Description
2 Other senses of the word
3 See also
4 References
5 External links

Description [edit source]

The transept of a church separates the nave from the sanctuary, apse, choir, chevet, presbytery, or chancel. The transepts cross the nave at the crossing, which belongs equally to the main nave axis and to the transept. Upon its four piers, the crossing may support a spire (*e.g.*, Salisbury Cathedral), a central tower (*e.g.*, Gloucester Cathedral) or a crossing dome (*e.g.*, St Paul's Cathedral). Since the altar is usually located at the east end of a church, a transept extends to the north and south. The north and south end walls often hold decorated windows of stained glass, such as rose windows, in stone tracery.

Occasionally, the basilicas and the church and cathedral planning that descended from them were built without transepts; sometimes the transepts were reduced to matched chapels. More often, the transepts extended well beyond the sides of the rest of the building, forming the shape of a cross. This design is called a Latin cross ground plan, and these extensions are known as the "arms" of the transept.[1] A Greek cross ground plan, with all four extensions the same length, produces a central-plan structure.

When churches have only one transept, as at Pershore Abbey, there is generally a historical disaster, fire, war or funding problem, to explain the anomaly. At Beauvais only the chevet and transepts stand; the nave of the cathedral was never completed after a collapse of the daring high vaulting in 1284. At St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague, only the choir and part of a southern transept were completed until a renewed building campaign in the 19th century.

South transept at Kilcooly Abbey, County Tipperary, Ireland

Other senses of the word [edit source]

The word "transept" is occasionally extended to mean any subsidiary corridor crossing a larger main corridor, such as the cross-halls or "transepts" of The Crystal Palace, London, of glass and iron that was built for the Great Exhibition of 1851.

In a metro station or similar construction, a transept is a space over the platforms and tracks of a station with side platforms, containing the bridge between the platforms. Placing the bridge in a transept rather than an enclosed tunnel allows passengers to see the platforms, creating a less cramped feeling and making orientation easier.

Vault of the Northern semitransept of Saint Catherine's Old Church, Żejtun, Malta.

See also [edit source]

- Aisle
- Cathedral architecture
- Cathedral diagram
- Glossary of the Catholic Church
- Transom (architectural)

References [edit source]

1. ^ *a b c* "Transept", ProbertEncyclopaedia.com: PE-tran. Archived 2012-10-25 at the Wayback Machine

External links [edit source]

- Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "Transept". *Encyclopædia Britannica*. **27** (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. p. 172.

Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Transepts***.

Categories: Architectural elements | Church architecture | Gothic architecture | Medieval architecture

This page was last edited on 29 June 2020, at 11:38.

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.

Privacy policy About Wikipedia Disclaimers Contact Wikipedia Mobile view Developers Statistics Cookie statement

a WIKIMEDIA project Powered by MediaWiki